



# The Egyptian Gazette

AUGUST 31. 1905

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## SPECIAL ECLIPSE NUMBER

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Reports from Five Stations

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**ASSOUAN, ALEXANDRIA, CAIRO,  
PORT-SAID, SUEZ.**

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Appearing ALEXANDRIA. . 2-30 p.m.

Appearing CAIRO . . . . 7-30 p.m.

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**NOTICE.**

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26,362-4-3

**DAILY WEATHER REPORT**

OBSERVATIONS BY SURVEY DEPARTMENT.

ALEXANDRIA.

Direction of wind..... Calm  
Force..... Calm  
State of Sea..... Smooth  
During (Max. Temp. in the shade..... 25.4  
4 hours) Min. do..... 21.0  
sailing Humidity..... 87.0  
P.m. Rainfall.....

**REMARKS.**

The excessive degree of darkness continues, but otherwise the weather conditions are normal. The barometer is rising.

**OTHER STATIONS.**

For the 24 hours ending 3 a.m. Yesterday

STATIONS.	Max. temp. in the shade.	Min. temp. in the shade.	STATIONS.	Max. temp. in the shade.	Min. temp. in the shade.
Port Said.....	25	23	Marowe.....	41	27
Suez.....	26	23	Barber.....	40	27
Shubra (Halema).....	26	20	Shubra.....	44	31
Shubra (Ghishah).....	27	18	Khartoum.....	—	—
Alexandria.....	30	19	Wed. Madani.....	35	19
Assouan.....	40	23	Dum.....	35	22
Wady Halfa.....	40	26			

**FOREIGN STATIONS.**

STATIONS.	Barom.	Wind.	Temp.	State of Sea.
Trisole.....	759.4	Light	26	Moder.
Malta.....	759.0	Light	33	Calm
Brindisi.....	756.3	Almost Calm	34	Slight
Athens.....	755.3	Calm	36	Very slight
Livorno.....	753.0	Almost Calm	34	Very slight

**PHASES OF THE MOON**

			Rises a.m.	Sets p.m.
Aug. 1	New Moon	6.3 a.m.	5.13	5.45
" 9	First Quarter	0.16 a.m.	5.17	5.45
" 16	Full Moon	5.31 a.m.	5.21	5.50
" 23	Last Quarter	5.10 a.m.	5.35	5.50
" 30	New Moon	5.13 p.m.	5.30	5.52

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**The Egyptian Gazette**

An English Daily Newspaper, Established 1890.

Editor &amp; Manager: R. SNELLING.

Price: One Piastre Tariff.

THURSDAY, AUGUST 31, 1905.

**THE ECLIPSE OF THE SUN.**

We have no excuse and no apology to offer for having occupied so many columns of our special double number of to-day with reports of the total solar eclipse which darkened the Nile valley yesterday afternoon, and with a variety of references to eclipses and their concomitant phenomena, which we have been at some pains to collect. We are assured that our readers will require no such apology. Those who are in Egypt will have an interesting souvenir of a remarkable event, and those of our subscribers, who have avoided an exceptionally hot year by going home to England or the continent, and have thus missed the solar eclipse—and the solar heat—can console themselves with the possession of full descriptions of the event, as seen from various localities which our correspondents have forwarded us. Egypt will not see such a sight again for a generation at least, and the next total eclipse to visit the British Isles in 1927 will be confined to the East Coast of Ireland and the Northern Counties of England. The last total eclipse of the sun visible in Egypt took place

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**Soap**

on May 17, 1882, when the "Egyptian Gazette" was in its infancy and but little notice was taken of the phenomenon either by this journal or by its local contemporaries. For this there was good reason: Egypt was in the throes of a military revolution of which none could see the end, and Arabi and his colonels were all powerful and within less than a month of the darkening of the sun, Alexandria was in mourning for the victims of the terrible riot which brought about the bombardment, the war and the British Occupation. Many of those, who took more than a passing interest in the eclipse of 1882 must have found it hard to resist the impression that this was an evil omen, a portent of war and ruin to the land over which it passed. Yesterday all was at peace in the lands from which the eclipse was visible; above all in Egypt, where no wars or rumours of wars disturbed a population that has forgotten the "events" in its anxiety that each year's cotton crop should exceed the last, and, thanks to the presence of the European schoolmaster and, we may add, to the wide increase of enlightenment among Moslem and Copt alike, the passing of the moon's shadow over the glowing disc was recorded without fear and with something more than mere childish wonder and perplexity. Nor were Europeans indifferent to the fascination of watching the dark shadow eat its way into the bright circle of the sun. Laymen and scientific amateurs gazed at the sky, the most vigorous speculator forgot Nile—but we must avoid puffs even in our purplest passages—while he made alarming facial contortions at the heavens through a disc of smoked glass, and up the Nile at red hot Assouan scientists of three nations took valuable records of the remarkable phenomena which accompany every total eclipse. The Commissions, whatever their sufferings from the climate, had no atmospheric difficulties to contend with, and they could sympathise with the sufferings of astronomers under other skies condemned to see a large and inky cloud bank hide the sun at the very moment of totality, or curse the fickle climate of the north when rain and mist cover the sky all through that day of all others which should be clear and bright.

The conditions under which yesterday's eclipse took place were supremely favorable to observers in Egypt, and we shall not be surprised to learn that the observations taken by the numerous and distinguished scientists at Assouan, have given highly successful results, and have contributed largely to our knowledge of solar astronomy and physics. The study of the corona, the measurement of its brightness at varying distances from the sun's centre, the determination of the quantity of light that becomes radially polarised, the photographing of the field of view all round the eclipsed sun in the hope of finding a new planet even nearer than Mercury to the centre of the solar system, and the attempt to prove whether, when the sun's light is screened, a portion of its magnetic rays are also cut off—these are the chief problems which scientists in Spain, Algeria, and Egypt set themselves to solve yesterday. We shall have to wait for the results of their observations to be studied and compared in the great observatories of Europe and America before we know all the additions made to astronomical and physical science, but we feel confident that none of the commissions sent to solve these problems in Algeria and Spain will have the mortifying experience that once befell certain German observers who ruefully confessed to Prince Bismarck that they had achieved nothing. "Why?" asked the Chancellor "The clouds hid the sun—" began the chief of the party, to be outshout with an unfeeling "Then you had better pay your own expenses." But when an eclipse does visit Egypt and especially Upper Egypt there is every reason to count upon its being a spectacular and scientific success. We have, in the Oriental phrase, been honoured by the presence of some of the leaders of astronomical research, we have had the pleasant and flattering experience of seeing the sun darkened by the shadows of the world of which we form a part, we have had the satisfaction of "assisting" at an event that will be recorded long after we have been forgotten, and that, in our opinion, justifies the "Egyptian Gazette" in devoting as much space to the topic of the day as if its motto were—"ECLIPSE FIRST—THE REST NOWHERE."

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1447-14-144 G. AQUILINA, Proprietor.



# YESTERDAY'S TOTAL SOLAR ECLIPSE.

## DETAILED REPORTS FROM ASSOUAN, ALEXANDRIA, CAIRO, PORT SAID, SUEZ, AND EDFOU.

### Successful Observations from Zone of Totality.

#### PROMINENCES AND STREAMERS CLEARLY SEEN.

##### AT ASSOUAN.

(FROM OUR SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT.)

(By Telegraph)

Assouan, Wednesday.

This afternoon's eclipse was a thorough success, if I may be allowed to use the expression, and whatever the scientific results obtained, there can be no doubt that the conditions were as favorable to observation as they well could be. The wind was very light, and not a single cloud was visible during the whole afternoon, though there a certain haziness about. Haze was of course almost inevitable at this season of the rising Nile flood, but I have not been informed that it appreciably interfered with observations. Numerous observers were in the field. Besides the scientific parties and commissions, not a few energetic amateurs had braved the heat and discomfort of a long railway journey to go south to Assouan. Mr. Smyrnoff, the Russian Diplomatic Agent in Egypt, Count Arrivabene Gonzaga, the Acting Diplomatic Agent for Italy, Graft Antonio von Stadnicki, Secretary of Legation to the Austro-Hungarian Diplomatic Agency, and M. Roman Ertner, secretary to the Belgian Consulate General, left Cairo on Monday evening and arrived at the Savoy Hotel last night, while Mr. Mitchell Innes, who gives a dinner to all the astronomical missions to-night, Mr. A. L. Webb, C.M.G., and Mr. Courtenay Clifton were also among the spectators. The Egyptian Government mission was divided. Mr. Wade watched the eclipse from a height west of Assouan, while Mr. Freeman's station was near Edfou, and Mr. Macpherson and Youssef Effendi Ford were at Dahid south of the first cataract.

The members of the various scientific missions were early on the ground. Special policemen and barriers of rope kept the most curious at a distance from the astronomers and their instruments, and long before the eclipse began all was in the most perfect readiness for the great event.

At 3.26 p.m. came the moment of first contact and thereafter the black line of the moon's shadow gradually gained on the glowing brightness of the sun. The progress of the eclipse was followed with intense interest and it must have seemed years to the more impatient observers before the phase of totality was reached at 4.36 p.m. For two minutes and twenty four seconds the sun was completely hidden. Several stars were plainly visible and the planet Mars was remarkably conspicuous. Animal life was absolutely still in the gloom, but for one flock of birds that passed overhead.

The corona afforded a most interesting study. The streamers were most prominent in the sun spot zones, the western streamers being shorter and more divergent, the longest, being quite two diameters of the sun in length. Short streamers of light were also visible proceeding from the north and south polar extremities of the sun. The prominences noticed were particularly large, especially those which issued from the western side of the obscured sun.

Then the bright edge of the sun began to emerge and the important part of the eclipse was over. Nothing is known as yet of the results obtained by the scientists who were at work in recording magnetic observation, and as the photographic results await development it is impossible to give anything like a complete description of what has actually been recorded by the instruments. Further details will follow; in the meantime the eclipse may be pronounced a success from every point of view.

##### NOTICE.

The latest telegrams, with to-day's local and general, and financial news, will be found on page 5.

##### AT ALEXANDRIA.

In Alexandria, as in every other town and village of Egypt, a keen interest was taken in the eclipse, which was the topic of the day in some circles, and in others was a close second either to the Peace or the effects of M. Cronier's suicide. Interest, indeed, is hardly a strong enough term for the emotions that were stirred in the breasts of many Alexandrians by the realization of the fact that at one minute to three in the afternoon a partial eclipse of the sun would commence, without fail,—for such events are never postponed—and that led even bootblacks and marmions to arm themselves with pieces of smoked glass. As the time of the commencement of the eclipse drew near, the streets, in some of the quarters, were full of individuals braving a sunstroke or the wheels of the passing arabas in wild anxiety lest the moment of contact should pass unobserved. Many photographic records were taken, and the majority of those which we have seen have been highly successful, portraying the crescent-like appearance of the eclipsed sun with great accuracy.

Those who knew nothing of science, and merely regarded the sun as a provider of light and heat, and to whom the statement that the earth moves round the sun is as improbable as its contrary is unimportant, anticipated the event with a certain uneasiness. They had an idea that something was going to happen to "Eshahems," they had been told that its disc would be almost entirely hidden from their view, and that day would become night, and believing all, they brooded uneasily over what would happen, and wondered what it would all look like.

How disappointed they must have been! Unable to appreciate that the sun, while completely hidden at Assouan, would be only partially obscured at Alexandria and other stations even closer to the zone of totality, they had hoped or feared that a great and solemn darkness would pass over the earth, attended by rare and curious portents.

But all they saw was a black something that came into contact with the rim of the sun's disc and ate its way into the fiery circle, disposing like a glutton of more and more till, in the words of a spectator, "the sun looked like a huge cheese from which a great piece had been bitten." Such was the eclipse to many of the smoked-glass enthusiasts.

The morning opened hazily enough, but the sky cleared as the day grew older, and the conditions at the actual moment of the eclipse were as favorable as any observer could desire. We chose the Ras el Tin lighthouse as our point of observation, obtained admittance, thanks to the kind offices of Admiral Sir R.M. Blomfield, and began our climb. The extreme effort of climbing 261 steps to the summit was right well repaid, and had there been no eclipse we should never have regretted it, for the view from the platform just below the light is the best in Alexandria. The coast from San Stefano to Fort Agami the grey town, the harbour with its shipping and quays and the Mariout Lake, white with salt incrustations west of the causeway, a dull greenish grey to the east, were all stretched below us, wonderfully clear and distinct despite the haze that drew in from seaward, and in the harbour below the white sails of the racing boats passed like swans.

At the first moment of contact nothing—but a violent and painful glare—was visible to the naked eye, nor could the smoked glass show us anything, but being provided with a fairly strong telescope with smoked lenses, we were able to follow the progress of the moon's shadow from start to finish. The first sign of the eclipse that we could discern was a peculiar jaggedness in the sun's circumference.

This was noticeable shortly after 3 p.m.—the first contact taking place at 2 h. 59 min. 41 sec. The shadow moved forward very slowly but by 3.30 p.m. a certain diminution in the sun's light and heat was apparent, and the glasses showed that the circular edge of the moon had made considerable progress.

The effect of the diminution of the sun's light was first obvious shortly after 3.30 p.m., when the colours of the sea and shore, which had previously been warm and glowing, began to wane and, if the expression may be used, to fade. It was not that the actual colour of objects really changed, but that its intensity diminished.

This feature increased with the progress of the eclipse, but it was not possible to distinguish any change of colour till shortly

before 4 p.m., when the obscuration was nearing its maximum. The sea was then a dead slaty green in the harbour, a remarkably beautiful violet near the horizon, a dark blue green in the middle distance. The Mariout Lake had completely lost its colour, and objects on the shore seemed to be suffused with a slight shade of yellow. At the time of maximum obscuration, the sun had shrunk to a crescent which appeared to be a little larger than the new moon. No stars were visible, at least from our vantage point. The day was now decidedly dull, but not in the least dark; distant objects, though their colour had in some degree faded or altered, being just as distinguishable as at midday. In the town, owing to the abundance of shade from houses and the narrowness of many of the streets the effect was certainly more marked, but we imagine that many of the observers must have felt a certain disappointment at being able to dispense with artificial light. Indeed the strongest impression left on us was that of the immense power of the solar light even when reduced to 12% of its original volume.

The recovery from the obscuration does not merit special description. The light returned very rapidly, and within half an hour from the moment of maximum obscuration everything had regained its normal appearance. One result of the eclipse which we noticed, was more durable, the later afternoon though as damp as it always is in the autumn months, being much cooler than usual.

##### AT CAIRO.

(FROM OUR OWN CORRESPONDENT.)

Cairo, Wednesday.

The early morning yesterday was as dull and cloudy in Cairo as it usually is at this period, but at about eight o'clock the atmosphere became quite clear and continued so for the rest of the day, which was fortunate for those anxious to have a good view of the phenomenon which, with one or two others subjects, has been the chief topic of conversation for the past week or two, not only amongst Europeans but also the educated portion of the native population.

Among the lowest classes of the latter the most extraordinary notions seemed to prevail as to the cause of the wonder that was about to happen and its consequences. Some of the more vigorous observers of religion uttered prayers all the while. In the purely native quarters, troops of children with a few adults as well perambulated the streets, beating tom-toms and invoking divine protection.

In Cairo the eclipse was only partial but about nine-tenths of the sun's disc was covered and this took place at thirteen minutes past four when the light became much dimmer, somewhat resembling a very bright moonlight evening or the shortened twilight of this time of the year. It commenced at four minutes past three and the eclipse ended at a quarter past five o'clock. These were the times furnished by the Survey Department which, however, differed slightly from those given by the eminent astronomer, M. Bascaroni, and published by us last Friday. Most of the Europeans witnessed the phenomena from the house tops with smoked glasses, without which it was not possible, even when the eclipse was at its fullest to look at the sun with the naked eye with any comfort.

A Mahomedan writer of about a century back recounts that a total eclipse of the sun in his time excited veritable terror amongst the population of Cairo, many people being so alarmed as to hide themselves in barricaded rooms. He likewise relates that animals and birds seemed as susceptible as human beings, and doubtless had fear at the disappearance of the sun.

If this year's had been also a total eclipse many strange sights would have been witnessed in the metropolis amongst the illiterate native population. According to another writer plants and flowers were influenced by the phenomenon and the leaves of those plants that close a night did the same during an eclipse that occurred in his day. Whether such be a fact or not it is for the astronomers of to-day to enlighten us.

##### AT PORT SAID.

(FROM OUR OWN CORRESPONDENT.)

Port Said, Wednesday.

Very considerable interest has been taken in Port Said in the great event of to-day, and the question of the eclipse has been the chief topic of conversation with almost everyone. Telescopes of all sorts and sizes were hastily prepared with little pieces of smoked or coloured glass, and on all hands, almost since the day broke, one could observe people gazing at the sun, as though they could not depend upon scientists to have fixed the time accurately. Even the Arab bootblack seems to have heard that something out of the common was about to happen, and with a certain amount of doubt and apprehension looked upwards wondering, and expecting he knew not what.

The day broke in anything but a reassuring manner. Banks of cloud and mist had gathered over the sky, making the morning like an October one in England. This mist and damp in the air is not surprising in a way and indirectly is undoubtedly caused by the eclipse itself. The cause of tides, as is well known, is due to the joint attraction of the sun and moon, and when the two bodies act in conjunction, as they do in a direct line during an eclipse, the effect is a much higher tide than usual. Anyone here, who has watched the sun behaviour lately, will have noticed how much higher the water has stood in the early evening, and this has caused a quite unwonted humidity and resultant mist for the last two mornings.

I explain this point as I have heard several people during the last few days, propound deep theories on the weather changes which accompany eclipses. It was not the direct influence of the eclipse on the weather which caused the misty day, but the peculiar situation of lower Egypt, having so much semi-marshy land which covers and uncovers with the slightest tidal variation.

Long before the critical hour of first contact approached (the time at which the moon's disc touched the extreme edge of that of the sun) numbers of people could be seen watching for the sun's appearance through their specially prepared shades and glasses. The hour, as published in the "Gazette," of 3.13 p.m. passed and few were aware of it, for without a good telescope fitted with suitable shades, and without the observer knowing exactly where to look, it is more than likely he would have seen nothing of the herald of this wonderful phenomena. I was perhaps a little more fortunate than many, having at my disposal a very good "Ross panoramic" glass properly fitted up, aided by which I easily saw and noted the first contact, which occurred at 3 h. 12 m. 40 sec. p.m.

Nothing particular was to be noted during the first few minutes, except the gradual encroachment of the dark serrated-edged mass of the moon on the bright solar disc, but towards four o'clock, daylight had very sensibly diminished and terrestrial objects had begun to take on themselves the weird, lurid, half electric type of light which is so peculiarly characteristic of these eclipses. This strange colour which everything rapidly took as time moved onwards appeared to resemble nothing so much as the hue which objects have during the lightning flashes of a heavy thunderstorm, the daylight becoming less and less as moments sped on towards the hour of maximum eclipse. By 4.15 p.m. over 75 per cent. of the sun's light had been cut off.

The calculated hour for Port Said of 4.26 p.m., at which the maximum eclipse was to take place, seemed to pass without any special notice being taken of it by the layman, as, for some moments before, owing to the effects of irradiation, by virtue of which all bright objects to the naked eye appear much larger than they really are, the black disc of the moon seemed to the unaided eye to have almost ceased to move.

The sun at 4.26 p.m. greatly resembled a very bright new moon, having in its arms an opaque disc such as is frequently seen at the period of perigee, when, combined with suitable weather conditions, the new moon appears to hold the old one in its arms.

In Port Said, to-day there was no sign of the corona which was eagerly looked for by many, and many people seemed disappointed that the day continued so light, but it was hardly surprising, when one considers that only 27

minutes of arc were cut off. Near the south-western edge, however, a faint extended phosphorescence could be seen, as I have stated. A planet for which I was on the look out, was to be seen to the south, and I fancied I could pick up another, Venus, close to the western horizon, but was not sure.

Regulus, a star of the first magnitude, situated only a few degrees west of the two bodies, I could not pick up, nor did I see any of the numerous smaller ones which in totality should have been clearly visible,—and so passed the best of what we saw here of the eclipse.

By 4.45 p.m. most people appeared to have got tired of watching, especially as every minute increased the size of the sun's visible crescent, and the consequent brightness of daylight, and all seemed to think that nothing more was to be seen.

The moment of last contact when the moon finally left the eastern edge of the sun, occurred at the predicted time, 5.22 p.m. Then came the sunset, which, I have noticed, on the day of solar eclipses generally has a heavy all its own. The damp air here is peculiarly suited for these beautiful effects and as the glowing orb sank in the west into a somewhat hazy horizon, the sky took on the same gloomy reds, yellows and dark blues extending to the eastern horizon.

##### AT SUEZ.

(FROM OUR CORRESPONDENT.)

(By Telegraph)

Suez, Wednesday.

The conditions under which the eclipse of the sun was viewed from this station were exceedingly favorable. The sky was perfectly clear and not a cloud was to be seen, and though there was a slight haze it did not interfere in any way with the observations taken here.

It is safe to say that the eclipse was viewed by everybody in Suez, smoked glasses were everywhere in evidence, and an altogether remarkable interest was taken in the phenomenon.

The shadow of the moon was first observed in contact with the sun at eight minutes past three by Cairo time or eight minutes past one by Greenwich time, and it disappeared at thirteen minutes past five by Cairo time. The direction was S. S. E. 81° west.

At no time did darkness reach any great degree, but as the sun became gradually more and more hidden the temperature grew appreciably cooler, and a curious effect, of which I have never seen the parallel, was observable. The light became much less intense and resembled neither night nor day, objects assumed a peculiar out line, and the colour, or color, I should say, of the sea were indescribable.

The horizon was particularly noticeable. As the solar disc gradually disappeared from view, a haze appeared, and the outline, which during most of the day had been well-defined, was first of all blurred, and it then became difficult to distinguish, and at the same time assumed a greyish-blue tint.

There was, however, at the place where the rays from the unobscured portion of the sun lit upon the sea, a bright light, in strange contrast to its surroundings, and of an almost silver hue, which gave an excellent effect.

In the town itself, I am told, an almost better effect was obtained than in the open space from which I observed the eclipse, for here there was a greater degree of darkness, which from a popular point of view, is the greatest feature of such a phenomenon, be it total, or be it partial, and no little consternation was apparent amongst some of the more youthful observers, who were unable to understand such a strange occurrence in broad daylight.

The astronomers who witnessed the eclipse from here were all amateurs, so that one cannot hope for an authentic account of the phenomena presented, but the eclipse did not reach a sufficient degree of totality to render them worthy of a special record. It has, however, been an event of great interest to amateur astronomers and physicists, and many of these, who were unable to go to that zone where their enthusiasm would have met with more valuable results, will have interesting records of the great event of 1905 as seen at Suez.

##### AT EDFOU.

(FROM OUR CORRESPONDENT.)

(By Telegraph)

Edfon, Thursday.

The total solar eclipse began here yesterday afternoon at forty minutes past three. Totality, which was reached at twenty-two minutes past four, lasted for the space of sixty-eight seconds. The eclipse ended at forty-five minutes past five. Numerous observers watched the phenomenon from here and special magnetic observations were taken from the roof of the great temple here. The results showed that no special magnetic disturbances took place during the eclipse.

##### THE TRACK OF THE SHADOW.

The shadow of the moon, a vast circular patch, covering an area of some 1,700 square miles (a little larger than Switzerland), that is to say about 130 miles in diameter, first struck the earth at sunrise somewhere near Winnipeg, in Canada, and just skirting the southern shores of Hudson Bay its centre reached the Atlantic on the coast of Labrador, near Dominio Harbour. Traversing the ocean it first touched the European Continent on the north coast of Spain near Luarca, and passing in a south-easterly direction through Burgos and Ataca, reached the Mediterranean at Oropesa; and, involving the Balearic Islands in its gloom, it reached the African coast near Philippeville in Algeria. Passing across the north-east corner of Tunis it again crossed the sea at Sfax, and skirting the African coast between Tripoli and the Gulf of Sidra traversed a portion of the Libyan Desert, passing across Egypt, Assouan being near the centre line; and crossing the Red Sea about the middle of its length passed into Arabia, where it died away near the coast of the Indian Ocean, where it set eclipsed.

##### PROSPECTS OF VALUABLE RESULTS.

It is five years and a quarter since a total eclipse of the sun could be observed within such easy reach of the capitals of Europe and America, and in that interval the progress of physical science, as well as the perfection of instruments connected therewith, have made great strides, and, while the discovery of radium and the investigations of its allied radio-active substances have opened up altogether new fields of research in physical chemistry, the rapid advances which have been made during recent years in the electrical theory of matter, together with the greatly extended application of the spectroscopic to solar and stellar physics, all bid fair to confer on this eclipse an unprecedented value for its possible results.

##### SHADOW BANDS.

There is an interesting and hitherto unexplained phenomenon which is often seen during a solar eclipse for a few seconds just before and just after totality, and that is the appearance of what are called "shadow bands" passing as waves of shadow with greater or less rapidity across the ground or on the fronts of walls facing the sun. Although there is, perhaps, no great scientific value to be anticipated from their investigation, their very mysteriousness is a sufficient reason for their careful observation, and at every station at which observers are stationed they have been noted, and the following particulars recorded:—the direction in which the bands lie, the direction in which they move, the velocity with which they travel, the width of the bands, and of the spaces between them. The object of this investigation is an attempt to ascertain if they be due to the effect of our atmosphere, or to anything connected with the sun itself. That they are not optical illusions is proved by the fact that they are nearly always seen by several observers and have been photographed. It is possible they may be a phenomenon of diffraction and interference occurring at a time when what is still left of the photosphere is becoming a mere point of light in the sky, but in either case their motion is, at present, impossible to explain.

We are not aware of the appearance of any of these bands during the eclipse of yesterday, but it is quite possible that later news from our special correspondent at Assouan may bear reference to them.



# FROM "THE EGYPTIAN GAZETTE" of May 17, 1882.

## THE ECLIPSE OF THE SUN.

"The total eclipse of the sun, which took place this morning and was also visible in Europe, began at Greenwich at 6 h. 10 m. this morning; the beginning of the total phase was at 6 h. 46 m. and the end of this phase was at 7 h. 23 m. The magnitude of the eclipse (at Greenwich) was 0.245. From the first to the last contact with the shadow 5 h. 28 m. 6' elapsed, the first contact taking place at 5 h. 1 m. 2' and the last at 10 h. 29 m. 8' morn. This day may, therefore, be said to have begun only at about half past ten this morning, which will certainly have caused some excitement in many of the villages of the interior.

In many places the ignorant will have thought that the eclipse was a presage of the beginning of the end. But they will have speedily recognized that the darkness which accompanies the maximum of such a phenomenon was not even total. The only difference observable was the fact that objects took a greenish or copper tint, producing a strange effect, and which surprises every one who has not witnessed this effect on some previous occasion.

Arago writes as follows respecting the total eclipse of the 8th July 1842, which he observed from Perpignan, and which surprised many of the inhabitants of that town:—

"The hour for the commencement of the eclipse approached. Nearly twenty thousand persons examined, through smoked glass, the radiant sun on its azure field. Till then, a legitimate curiosity had inspired the spectators; but, when the sun, reduced to a narrow strip, only threw a feeble light on the horizon, an inquiet feeling appeared to agitate every person; all appeared to wish to communicate their impressions to those standing around them.

"Then there was a rumbling noise similar to that of a distant sea after a storm. This noise grew louder and louder as the solar strip became gradually less; the strip disappeared; finally darkness suddenly succeeded to the light, and a profound silence marked this phase of the eclipse, just as clearly as had been done by the pendulum of our astronomical clock.

"The phenomenon, in all its magnificence, triumphed over the petulance of youth, over the light-headedness which is affected by a certain class of men as a sign of superiority, over the noisy indifference customary among soldiers. A profound silence reigned everywhere, even the birds had ceased to sing.

"After a solemn pause of about two minutes transports of joy, loud shouts saluted, with the same accord, the same spontaneity, the reappearance of the sun's rays."

We may add to this account of the illustrious savant that the animals also show their surprise by well understood movements, and even the vegetable creation is subject to the influence of this phenomenon.

Eclipses of the sun occur whenever the moon passes before the sun, and eclipses of the moon whenever that luminary enters the shadow which the earth throws behind it.

Eclipses of the sun occur at new moon and eclipses of the moon are only seen when it is at its full. Only seven eclipses can take place in any one year and never less than two; in the latter case they are always eclipses of the sun. In every period of twenty eight years and ten days, there are, as a mean, twenty eight central eclipses, that are susceptible of becoming annular or total according to circumstances; but as the terrestrial zone along which the phenomenon can be observed, either in one phase or the other, is very narrow, total or partial eclipses are extremely rare occurrences. At Greenwich only one total eclipse was observable during the eighteenth century, and this will be the last one visible there till next century."

## SUN SPOTS AND THE CORONA.

It is an interesting fact, and one fraught with great possibilities, that between the eclipse of 1900 and that of 1905, both of which making so similar a track over the European Continent, there is, in one important respect, a great difference. While the 1900 eclipse, which was so well observed in Spain and Algeria, was at a period of sunspot minimum, this eclipse comes when sunspots are near their maximum. And as there is very little doubt that there is a close connection between the nature and form of the corona and the prevalence of sunspots, it may be hoped that among the many observations have been made on the corona and from stations so far distant from one another as Labrador and Egypt, connected by a chain of observing stations between, new light may be thrown on the nature of sunspots and on their connection with the great coronal envelope of the sun. That there is an undoubted connection between sunspots and this earth is now well established, and their influence upon earth currents and magnetic storms, by which telegraphy is so often retarded, has parted from the region of coincidence to take its place in that of cause and effect; and when it is considered how vast is the area of the solar atmosphere which is occupied by a large spot, some of them being 150,000 miles across, and that they indicate gigantic activity in the enveloping atmosphere of the sun the wonder is rather that their influence upon the earth is not greater than it appears to be. There are among astronomers and physicists very diverse opinions as to the nature and origin of these great fields of activity in the sun, and it may be hoped that the observations made yesterday may throw considerable light upon the question.

## SOME MEDIEVAL AND MODERN ECLIPSES.

A variety of interesting allusions to the occurrence of total eclipses of the sun are to be found in the annals of medieval and modern history.

Halley wrote a paper on the total solar eclipse which occurred in London in the year 1715, and mentions, in illustration of the rarity of such phenomena, that no previous eclipse of the same nature had been visible in the metropolis since the year 1140. The former eclipse is recorded in the "Saxon Chronicle" and short mention is made of it by William of Malmesbury. The "Saxon Chronicle" states that "in the Lent sun and the day darkened about the noontide of the day, when men were eating, and they did light their candles to eat by. That was the thirtieth day before the Calends of April. Men were very much struck with wonder." William of Malmesbury in mentioning the subject in papers which he wrote says "that while persons were sitting at their meals, the darkness became so great that they feared the ancient chaos was about to return; and upon going out immediately they perceived several stars about the sun."

History mentions total eclipses of the sun as having occurred in the years 1107, 1241, 1415, 1433, 1485, 1506, 1530, 1544, 1560, 1567, 1590, 1605, 1652, and 1699. The eclipses of 1433, and 1598, and 1652 were visible in the British Isles, the first of these occurring in Scotland. According to MacLaurin there is a manuscript account of the 1433 eclipse preserved in the library of the Edinburgh university. The moon's shadow on the occasion of the eclipse of 1578 appears to have passed over the border, counties of England and Scotland, and the day of its occurrence which was a Saturday, was long known as "Black Saturday." The eclipse of 1652 was visible in the North of Ireland, and in Scotland.

In 1706 there occurred a total eclipse of the sun which was visible in the southern countries of Europe. At Montpellier, where it was observed by Plantade and Capie, the total obscuration lasted four minutes and ten seconds. During this time the dark body of moon appeared to be surrounded by a corona of polar light. The planets Venus, Mercury, and Saturn, and several of the fixed stars were visible to the naked eye. On the summits of some of the mountains of Switzerland, where the view was not impeded by the gross vapours which accumulate in the lower regions of the atmosphere, the stars appeared as thickly strewn as in the time of full moon.

On the 3rd May 1715 there occurred a total eclipse of the sun, which was visible in London, and of which Halley has given an interesting account in a paper published in the "Philosophical Transactions of the Royal Society" for the same year. The total obscuration lasted three minutes and twenty two seconds. The planets Jupiter, Mercury, and Venus, as well as the fixed stars Capella and Aldebaran, were visible to the naked eye.

On May 22, 1724, a total eclipse of the sun occurred at Paris. The total obscuration lasted only a little more than two minutes. Venus and Mercury and a few of the fixed stars were visible to the naked eye.

The next total solar eclipse recorded in history was visible in the northern countries of Europe. It occurred on May 2, 1733. The total obscuration lasted a little more than three minutes. The planet Jupiter, the stars of Ursa Major, Capella, and several others were visible to the naked eye. Besides the corona, several reddish patches of light were seen around the dark body of the moon.

A total eclipse of the sun which occurred in the Southern Ocean on the 9th of February, 1766, was observed by persons on board the French ship Comte d'Artois. The obscuration only lasted 5.3 seconds.

On the 24th June, 1778, a total eclipse of the sun was observed at sea by the Spanish Admiral Don Antonio Ulloa, while proceeding from the Azores to Cape St. Vincent. The obscuration lasted about four minutes and the corona around the moon appeared in great splendour.

A total eclipse of the sun was visible in North America, at Kinderhook in the State of New York, on June 16, 1806, and was observed by Don Joachino Ferrers. The obscuration lasted four minutes and thirty seven seconds.

Another total eclipse visible in America occurred on the 30th of November 1834. It was observed at Milledgeville, Georgia, by the French astronomer Nicollet, and the obscuration on this occasion lasted one minute and fifteen seconds. At Beaufort, South Carolina, two planets and four stars of the first magnitude were visible to the naked eye.

A total solar eclipse was visible in the South of Europe on July 7, 1842, and was observed at Perpignan by the late M. Arago and other French astronomers. The sun was totally obscured for two minutes and twenty four seconds. In the countries of Eastern Europe the totality lasted somewhat longer, the time recorded at Lipsek being three minutes and five seconds. Several red protuberances were also observed round the dark body of the moon.

On the 8th August 1850 there occurred a total eclipse of the sun, which was visible in the islands of the Pacific Ocean. It was observed at Honolulu by Katerzycki, who has given an interesting account of the phenomenon in the "Comptes Rendus" of the Academy of Paris for April 21, 1851. The red protuberances were very conspicuous on this occasion.

The next total eclipse of the sun occurred on July 28, 1851, and was observed by a great number of astronomers, it being visible in the northern countries of Europe. The totality

lasted about three minutes, and several rose-coloured protuberances were observed around the moon's limb.

There was a total eclipse of the sun on November 30, 1853, which was visible in South America. At Ocaja, in Peru, it was observed by M. Moesta, director of the National Observatory of Santiago, in Chili. On this occasion the sun was totally obscured for two minutes and fifty seconds and several rose-coloured protuberances were observed around the moon's limb. The planets Jupiter and Venus were plainly seen, and Antares, which was within five degrees of the sun, was also quite visible.

A total solar eclipse was observed in America on September 7, 1858. At Paragui it was observed by M. de Mello, director of the Imperial Observatory of Rio Janeiro, by M. Laisa a French astronomer, and several other scientists who had been sent out for that purpose by the Brazilian Government. The corona appears to have exhibited a very complicated structure and several protuberances were seen. The planets Venus, Mercury, and Saturn, and the stars Sirius and three others, which were supposed to be in the Corona, and a Crucis, were plainly visible during totality.

Another eclipse occurred in July 18, 1860, and on this occasion the moon's shadow first traversed a portion of the North American continent. It then swept across the Atlantic, and subsequently covered the entire breadth of the Spanish peninsula, the eclipse terminating in Algiers. A large number of official, and private astronomers observed the phenomena of the eclipse in Spain. The steamship Himalaya was put at the disposal of the British astronomers by the government for conveying them from London, to the Spanish coast, and this liberal offer was taken advantage of by some forty to fifty persons, headed by the Astronomer Royal. The greater number of the observers disembarked at Bilbao, a town in the Bay of Biscay, and the remainder proceeded to Santander, which is about thirty miles farther west. An arrangement was made by which the observers distributed themselves as widely as circumstances would admit over the track of the moon's shadow, so that there would be a less chance of the observations being altogether impeded by the weather conditions. A party, consisting of Captain Jacob, late director of the Madras observatory, the Rev. Dr. McLaggart of Glasgow, and other enthusiasts observed the eclipse from the southern slope of Sierra di Tolonio, which commands a most extensive view of the valley of the Ebro along which the moon's shadow was to pass. The sun was totally obscured for three minutes and twenty seconds, and the corona was unusually brilliant on this occasion. The planets Venus and Jupiter were seen shining with great splendour and seven or eight fixed stars were visible. Several rose-coloured protuberances were also observed.

## SOLAR ECLIPSES OF ANCIENT DAYS.

The ancient literature of Greece and Rome contains several incidental allusions to the occurrence of total eclipses of the sun. The most celebrated of these is the eclipse mentioned by Herodotus as having taken place during a battle between the Medes and the Lydians. The story relates how that the two hostile armies were so terrified by the spectacle of the eclipse, that they suddenly desisted from fighting, and concluded a treaty of amity and peace. He further states that the eclipse had been foretold to the Ionians by Thales the Milesian. The precise date of this eclipse has given rise to much discussion in modern times. In 1811 the late Francis Baily communicated a paper to the Royal Society, in which, by availing himself of Burgh lunar tables, he endeavoured to prove that a total eclipse of the sun which occurred on September 20 610 B.C., must have been the one alluded to by Herodotus. He acknowledges, however, that the elements of the lunar orbit employed in his investigation failed to account also for the total eclipse of the sun which Diogenes Siculus mentions as having occurred while Agathocles, king of Syracuse, was proceeding with his fleet to Africa (310 B.C.). In a paper published in the "Philosophical Transactions of the Royal Society" for 1852, Mr. Airy has taken up the subject of this eclipse. His researches are based upon a new determination of the elements of the lunar orbit derived from the Greenwich observations, and the values of the secular acceleration of the mean motion and node assigned by Professor Hansen. The conclusion at which he arrives is that the eclipse referred to by Herodotus must have occurred on the 17th September, 585 B.C. He shows that this date accords satisfactorily with the eclipse recorded during the time of Agathocles, and also with an eclipse briefly alluded to by Xenophon, who records it as having occurred at Larissa, in Asia, during the retreat of the ten thousand Greeks along the Tigris over the high tablelands of Armenia to Trebizond (Trapezus) on the Black Sea (400 B.C.).

Plutarch also makes reference to a total eclipse of the sun which occurred in his time. The account of this is given in his "Dissertation on the Lunar Spots" and though the allusion is brief, it is nevertheless interesting. He says that it occurred about midday, that the darkness was so great as to cause the day to resemble night, and that stars were visible all over the firmament. Kepler, who investigated the probable time of the occurrence of this eclipse, is of opinion that it is identical with one which took place in the year 113 A.D.

## ECLIPSES AND THEIR PHENOMENA.

Amongst the solar phenomena which are observed during the time of a total eclipse the corona and the rose-coloured protuberances receive the greatest attention from astronomers, and it will, therefore, be interesting to those of our readers who are not learned in the science of astronomy to note some of the chief characteristics of these two remarkable appearances.

The corona has been remarked by more than one ancient author. Plutarch writing on the total eclipses of the sun says: "But even although the moon were at any time to conceal the whole body of the sun, still the eclipse is deficient in duration as well as in amplitude, for there is around the margin a certain brightness which prevents the shadow from being very deep." All modern accounts of total eclipses of the sun agree in describing the corona as a characteristic feature of totality. Its light has been generally remarked to be of a pearly colour, and to diminish gradually in brightness from the moon's limb. Its breadth may be said to be about half the moon's radius, but rays of much greater length extend from it, causing it to resemble the "gloire" which painters throw around the head of saints.

Whatever may be the physical cause of this phenomenon, it is very plain from the statements of observers that its brightness varies in intensity during different eclipses. Thus M. Katerzycki states that on the occasion of the total eclipse of 1851, the corona vanished at the very instant of the reappearance of the solar light, and the same remark is made by M. Moesta with reference to the total eclipse of 1853. On the other hand, in the case of the eclipse of 1860, the corona was distinctly observed at least ten seconds before the totality, and it continued to be visible for several seconds after the reappearance of the solar light. In consequence of the bright light of the corona the darkness was not so intense as is usual during the occurrence of such phenomena.

The rose-coloured protuberances around the dark limb of the moon, which are observed during the totality of a solar eclipse, first attracted special attention at the eclipse of 1842, though they had been clearly seen at the eclipse of 1733, Mr. Mauvais, who observed the former eclipse at Perpignan, writes as follows:—

"A few seconds after the total obscuration, while endeavouring to measure the breadth of the corona, I perceived a reddish point at the inferior limb of the moon, which, however, did not project sensibly beyond the limb. After an interval of fifty six seconds had elapsed from the commencement of the totality, the reddish point, to which I have referred transformed itself into two protuberances, similar to two contiguous mountains perfectly well defined. Their colour was not uniform. Upon their slopes were seen streaks of a deeper tint. I cannot give a more exact idea of their aspect than by comparing them to the peaks of the Alps, illuminated by the setting sun and seen afar off after the lapse of one minute and ten seconds from the commencement of totality, a third mountain was perceived to the left of the two others. It exhibited the same aspect as far as regards colours. It was flanked by some smaller peaks but all were perfectly well defined. While this third mountain was in the process of issuing forth, the first two continued all the while to increase. They finally attained a height of about 2'. The interval between the two groups appeared to embrace an arc of about 25 degrees on the moon's limb. The most considerable group, apparently the most western, seemed to me to be a few degrees to the left of the lowest point of the moon's disc."

Francis Baily, who observed the eclipse from a station in the vicinity of Pavia, in Italy, remarks that the protuberances resembled mountains of prodigious elevation. Their colour appeared red, tinged with lilac or purple, or rather their aspect resembled the colour of the peach blossom. According to M. Littrow, who observed the protuberances at Vienna, their aspect, which was first white, changed to rose-colour, and then to violet, and afterwards passed in a reverse order through the same tints. M. Otto Struve, who observed the eclipse at Lipsek, remarks in reference to the rose-coloured protuberances, that a very large part of the moon's disc was garnished with a similar reddish bordering.

The red prominences which appeared during the total eclipse of 1851 have been well described by the numerous astronomers, who proceeded to the countries of Northern Europe for the purpose of observing the phenomenon. According to Mr. Lassell, they were of a most brilliant lake colour, a splendid pink, quite defined and hard. Mr. Dawes remarked a blunt, triangular body suspended, as it were, in the corona, and the distance of which from the moon's limb was observed to increase as the moon continued to advance over the solar disc. The isolated patch of light was also seen by the greater number of those who observed the eclipse. M. Moesta, to whose writings we have referred before, remarked on the same side of the corona two dark spots with a very conspicuous protuberance which were of square-like form and in apparent contact with the moon's limb. They appeared like two apertures through which the dark ground of the heavens was visible. The protuberances which occurred during the total eclipse of 1860 resembled in their general features those observed on previous occasions. One of them appeared isolated from the moon's limb, but was seen to approach as the moon advanced over the solar disc.

The question whether these protuberances belong to the sun or the moon has been the subject of much discussion, but the observations of the eclipse of 1860 proved beyond doubt that they found their origin in the sun. On this occasion it was found that as the

moon advanced over the solar disc, the protuberances on the eastern limb of the moon, which first came into view, gradually diminished in size, while those on the western limb, which at the commencement were invisible, gradually increased in dimension.

Besides these protuberances which form so conspicuous an object during the totality of an eclipse, there has generally been observed at the parts of the moon's limb where the solar light disappears, and again at the parts where it reappears, a long red streak of light, apparently of the same physical nature as the protuberances, which tends to support the opinion that the whole surface of the sun is enveloped in such a substance.

Attempts have been made to connect the rose-coloured protuberances with the solar spots, but the results of a careful comparison of the two classes of phenomena do not seem to indicate the existence of any physical relation between them. Other observers have endeavoured, but with no better result, to account for the protuberances by means of the facule of the solar disc. The most probable view of the nature of the more important phenomena which are revealed during a total solar eclipse, is that the corona represents an atmosphere about the sun, and the protuberances are emanations from a substance enveloping the surface of the sun, and in some way connected with the generation of the solar light and heat. In the case of an annular eclipse, the western limb of the moon previous to the formation of the annulus has been seen to exhibit an indented appearance resembling a succession of beads. The beads almost immediately become elongated, assuming the aspect of long black parallel streaks, uniting the limbs of the sun and moon. In the next instant these lines give way, as if they had been snapped asunder by the eastward motion of the moon, and the annulus then appears completely formed.

The same succession of appearances has been witnessed when the eastern limb of the moon is approaching the corresponding limb of the sun. Phenomena of this nature were witnessed during the eclipses of 1724, 1737, 1748, and 1791. Nicolai also observed a similar appearance very distinctly during his observation of the annular eclipse of September 7, 1820, at Mannheim. He remarked that, "about a second before the annulus was formed, the fine curve of the moon's disc, then in contact with the sun's limb, appeared broken into several parts, and in a moment, these parts flowed together like drops of water, or quicksilver near each other." De Zach, who observed the same eclipse at Bologna, also remarks that before the contact of the two limbs was effected, "there was visible, not a continuous thread of light, but a number of luminous points, resembling a row of so many pearl beads, separated by dark intervals."

The most vivid description of this phenomenon, however, has been given by Francis Baily, who observed the annular eclipse of May 15, 1836, at Jedburgh, in the South of Scotland, and the phenomenon has from this description received the appellation of "Baily's Beads." "When the cusps of the sun, previous to the formation of the annulus, were about forty degrees asunder, a row of lucid points, like a string of beads, irregular in size and distance from each other, suddenly formed round the part of the circumference of the moon that was about to enter on the sun's disc. Its formation was so rapid, that it presented the appearance of having been caused by the ignition of a fine train of gunpowder." His impression was that the annulus had just been formed, but to his great surprise he found that the luminous points, as well as the dark intervening spaces, increased in magnitude, some of the contiguous ones appearing to run into each other like drops of water; for the rapidity of the change was so great, and the singularity of the appearance so fascinating and attractive, that the mind was for the moment distracted, and lost in contemplation of the scene, so as to render one unable to attend to every minute detail. Finally, as the moon pursued her course, the dark intervening spaces (which at their origin had the appearance of lunar mountains in high relief, and which still continued attached to the sun's border) were stretched out into long, thick, black, parallel lines joining the limbs of the sun and moon, when all at once they suddenly gave way, and left the circumference of the sun and moon comparatively advanced, upon the face of the sun. The same appearance, although in a reverse order, was witnessed on the breaking up of the annulus. While the limb of the moon was yet at some distance from the margin of the solar disc, a number of long, thick, black, parallel lines, as before, suddenly started forward from the moon, and joined the two limbs. As these dark lines got shorter, the intervening bright lights assumed a more irregular shape, and at length terminated in a fine curved line of bright beads, as at the commencement, till they ultimately vanished and the annulus ceased to exist. This phenomenon is accounted for as being due to some imperfection, connected with the optical qualities of the telescope.

## THE ECLIPSE IN SPAIN.

Extraordinary interest was aroused in Spain by the eclipse, and special preparations were made for observing it. A number of scientific expeditions, both private and official, erected provisional observatories in the eclipse zone and the Spanish army was represented, several balloons, belonging to the military aerostatic park and manned by engineers making ascents to study the eclipse from the higher and more rarefied strata of the atmosphere. The importance of these observations, taken at heights far above the clouds, must be very great and to enable the records to be as extensive as possible numerous small balloons carrying not men, but photographic apparatus specially prepared to receive and preserve impressions at great heights, were to be sent up with the same object. To minimise the risk of losing any records special instructions were issued to the people and to the local authorities to secure and guard these balloons on their fall.

King Alfonso XIII and the Royal family went to Soria to observe the eclipse, and Madrid society followed their example, the summer visitors to Moncayo, and other well known health resorts in northern Spain, showing great eagerness to be present at the chief points of observation on the great day. Numerous foreign scientific missions visited the peninsula, and Great Britain was well represented both in Majorca and on the mainland. The official British Mission, which was warmly greeted by the local authorities of Castellon de la Plana on the coast of Valencia, erected an observatory at Albocacer, a little town in the mountains, half way between Castellon de la Plana and Tortosa. Mr. John, Evershed observed the eclipse from Burgos, the Stoneyhurst party under the Rev. L. Cortis, S.J., took up their quarters at Tortosa itself and Sir Norman and Dr. J. S. Lockyer representing the Solar Physics Observatory with Mr. C. P. Butler of London, and Mr. Crommelin of the Royal Greenwich Observatory, watched the phenomenon from Palma, the capital of the island of Majorca, and, if all we have heard of Palma is true, must have found the heat uncommonly trying, though we imagine that Professor Turner's party have ventured into hotter regions by far than any of their brother scientists.

## MERCURY'S ATMOSPHERE.

Astronomers hope to ascertain from their observations of yesterday's eclipse, certain facts of importance relative to the little planet whose orbit is nearer to the sun than that of any other known member of the solar system. Only visible to the naked eye towards evening and at early morning, and receiving seven times the light and heat of the earth, Mercury has disclosed but little to astronomers. Its real diameter is about 3/8 that of the earth or 3140 miles, its bulk is to that of the earth as 63 to 1000, and its mass is reckoned at a two-millionth part of the sun. But of the configuration of the surface of the planet nothing whatever is known, and some of the most eminent astronomers greatly doubt whether Mercury even possesses an atmosphere. It is hoped that, when the observations of the various scientific missions have been compared, light will be thrown upon this question for the planet was so near the line joining the earth and the sun, that the outline of its crescent will probably be seen clearly enough to show whether the Mercury really possesses an atmosphere or not.

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Write for List No. 2.

## WINDSOR HOTEL Restaurant.

Table d'Hôte Luncheons & Dinners Served on the Terrace.

ORCHESTRA PLAYS 6 TO 11.30 P.M. UNUSUAL SITUATION - SEA BREEZE.

## The Standard Life Assurance Company.

ESTABLISHED 1895.

ACCUMULATED FUNDS £11,000,000

BONUS YEAR, 1905.

THE NEXT DIVISION OF PROFITS will be made amongst participating Policies in existence at 15th November 1905.

All With Profit Policies effected on or before that date will be entitled to share in the Division. The Company have already declared Bonus Additions to Policies to the amount of more than

SEVEN MILLIONS STERLING.

Head Office for Egypt: Sheria, Kasr el-Nil, Cairo. B. NATHAN & Co., Chief Agents for Alexandria.

A. V. THOMSON, Secretary for Egypt.



## THE PEACE TERMS.

## SECRET UNDERSTANDING DENIED.

## SAGHALIEN TO REMAIN UNFORTIFIED.

## ROOSEVELT EULOGISED.

PORTSMOUTH (N.H.), August 30.

Some correspondents assert that a secret understanding exists regarding the question of reimbursement, but the Japanese officials here declare that Japan will receive only the actual cost of the maintenance of prisoners.

M. Maartens and M. Dennison are drafting a treaty of peace. It is expected that it will be completed by the end of the week.

The agreement stipulates that the Saghalien Island is not to be fortified, or used for strategic purposes. It binds Japan not to fortify the Perouse Straits. The Saghalien will be divided by the 50 degree.

A new clause provides for a Russo-Japanese commercial treaty, each Power benefiting under the most favored nation clause and undertaking to maintain the open-door in Manchuria.

The Japanese plenipotentiaries have issued a statement declaring that an absolute divergence of views regarding Saghalien and the question of reimbursement frequently threatened a rupture in the negotiations, but the Mikado, responding to the dictates of humanity and civilisation, has, in a spirit of perfect conciliation and in the interest of peace, authorised the waiving of the indemnity, and the division of the Saghalien Island. (Routier)

PORTSMOUTH (U.S.A.), August 30.

It is asserted that no secret clause figures in the peace treaty. (Havas)

PORTSMOUTH (N.H.), August 30.

President Roosevelt congratulated the Plenipotentiaries on securing a peace which is just and honorable for both sides. (Routier)

WASHINGTON, August 30.

President Roosevelt has been overwhelmed with telegrams of congratulation, including those from King Edward and the Emperor William. (Routier)

WASHINGTON, August 30.

M. Loubet, King Edward, and the German Emperor have congratulated President Roosevelt on the conclusion of peace. (Havas)

PARIS, August 30.

The papers do scant justice to Japan's magnanimity. The majority of the newspapers proclaim the Tsar's wisdom in refusing the concessions. (Routier)

LONDON, August 30.

The papers are unanimous in declaring that Japan's extraordinary magnanimity is a lesson to the world, and in eulogising President Roosevelt's efforts, to which peace is largely due. (Routier)

VIENNA, August 30.

The Austrian and German press welcome the conclusion of peace.

The "Norddeutsche Zeitung," in a highly inspired article, says that the resolution to yield may well have been no easy task for Japanese statesmen but does honor to their wisdom.

The Japanese concession is all the more valuable as it is an act of voluntary self restraint and not the outcome of any external pressure. (Routier)

ST. PETERSBURG, August 30.

The journals deplore the conclusion of peace when the army had become stronger than ever. The "Bourse Gazette" rejoices that good sense has triumphed at Tokio.

The "Novoye Vremya" says that peace is disastrous for Russia.

The "Sviet" states that all the Japanese concessions pale before the loss of half of the Saghalien Island.

The "Ruski Listok" welcomes peace as enabling Russia to reorganise her internal administration. (Routier)

## FRANCE AND MOROCCO.

PARIS, August 30.

In consequence of the Sultan's rejection of the French demands, the French mission is preparing to leave Fez. (Routier)

TANGIER, August 30.

The Sultan has liberated the Algerian Chief. (Havas)

## THE HAN-KAU RAILWAY.

PEKIN, August 30.

China will pay 6 1/2 million dollars for the Han-Kau railway. (Routier)

## THE ECLIPSE AT SFAX

LONDON, August 30.

There was a clear view of the eclipse at Sfax at the moment of totality. The natives shouted with joy when the sun reappeared. Successful observations were also taken at Burgo, the spectral corona affording a striking spectacle. (Routier)

## LOCAL AND GENERAL.

**IRRIGATION DEPARTMENT.**—A house is to be constructed for the Inspector of Irrigation of the Fayoum Circle at Medinet-el-Fayoum.

**GHAFFIR ARRESTED.**—While the S.S. Dandonian was discharging cargo, a ghaffir was caught in the act of abstracting four tins of sardines.

**STRAY AND OWNERLESS DOGS** found in the Imam district of Cairo to-morrow night and at dawn of the 2nd prox. will be poisoned by the police.

**QUARREL AT ABNOUB.**—In consequence of a fight among Copts at Abnoub, one man was killed, several received serious injuries, and a number were arrested.

**THIEFISH BARBER.**—On Saturday a barber was sent to the carcer on a charge of stealing £13.0 from the cabin of the chief engineer of the S.S. St. Bede, who had required his services.

**BUBONIC PLAGUE.**—Two new cases of plague have been admitted in hospital at Alexandria, both Sudanese sals. A native man was found dead in his house in the Meshieh quarter, and one case in hospital ended fatally.

**SUEZ CANAL.**—13 vessels passed through the Canal on the 28th inst., 7 of which were British, 1 German, 3 Turkish, 1 French, 1 Russian. The days receipts were frs. 372,740.49, making the total from the 1st inst. frs. 8,481,621.06.

**ZOOLOGICAL GARDENS.**—The band of the Boy's Reformatory School will perform in the Gardens every Friday afternoon, until further notice. The admission on Fridays is the same as on other week days, i. e. P.T. 1/2 per person.

**FIRE IN CAIRO.**—Our Cairo contemporaries report a fire which caused damage estimated at L.E. 4,000 in a house situated in the Shari'ah Abbas. No lives were lost, and the destruction of property appears to have been mainly, if not entirely, covered by insurance.

**ALHAMBRA THEATRE.**—The Della Guardia dramatic company will present *Cecilia* at the Alhambra Theatre to-morrow evening, and *Andriana* will be given on Saturday evening. A matinee will be held on Sunday afternoon commencing at four o'clock. — We regret to learn that the popular manager of this theatre, M. Conigliano, suffered the loss of his little girl, Anna, who died this morning, at the age of eleven years.

**BRUTAL HUSBAND.**—Abd el Aziz Amio, on being asked by his wife Zinoubia bint Khalita to give her the 'talag' or notice of divorce, proved that the unlucky woman had good reason for her demand, by beating her savagely over the head and legs. The wife will require ten days' medical treatment. The proper treatment in her husband's case is sufficiently obvious.

**HINT TO BRITISH MANUFACTURERS.**—The British Vice-Consul at Adana says in a recent report that the importation of British threshing machines into Cilicia seems likely to increase in the future. Altogether some 15 reaping and threshing machines were imported from the United Kingdom during the year 1904. The sale of such articles, which is now only in its infancy, appears likely to become important.

**BRITISH CHAMBER OF COMMERCE.**—We would draw the attention of manufacturers and merchants to the work of the British Chamber of Commerce of Egypt, which was formed in 1896 with the sole object of assisting British trade in this country. The services of the Chamber are always at the disposal of any member desiring information on trade matters generally, including the question of appointing suitable agents. As no fee is charged for such advice, it is obviously in the interests of all British traders here to become members, especially when it is remembered that the annual subscription is merely the nominal one of £1. The latter payment also includes a copy of the monthly Journal issued by the Chamber. Home enquirers can obtain further particulars from our London office, 36, New Broad-street, which acts as agents to the Chamber.

## PERSONAL AND SOCIAL.

H. H. Prince Mohamed Ali Bey Gellal left for Europe yesterday by the German mail boat.

Ahmed Pasha Zeki will join H. H. the Khedive next week and accompany him to Constantinople.

Captain Flower, director of the zoological gardens, is leaving Alexandria by the Austrian Lloyd S.S. Semiramis for Europe on business in connection with the future development of these gardens. He will be away for six or seven weeks, and during this period Mr. R. Vaughan Wild will act as director.

Capt. Blakeney, R.E., has left Cairo for Assiout, on an inspecting trip.

Mr. C. Baehler will return to Cairo in the first week of October.

## KHEDIVIAL MAIL S.S. CO.

## NEW STEAMER PURCHASED.

We are informed that the Khedivial Mail Co. has just purchased the S.S. Basileus Georges from Messrs. Destounis and Yannolatas for £13,000. The steamer which has been docked at Constantinople and examined by the agents of the purchasing company, will shortly leave for Alexandria with passengers stopping at Piræus only. She will be used entirely for passenger and mail traffic and will ply for the present between Alexandria and Constantinople.

## THE BANCO DI ROMA.

It is currently reported in Cairo that the above bank intends opening a branch there during the next winter season, and, in all probability, at Port Said also, about the same time.

Nothing, however, will be definitely decided as to the exact date of the inauguration of these two new offices until the arrival in Egypt of Signor Paolli, President of the Council of Administration of the bank in Rome. It is further reported that this gentleman will not come out until after the meeting that is to take place in Paris next month between Sir Elwin Palmer, Governor of the National Bank, who is now in London, and the two groups of financiers, French and Italian, who are to participate in the formation of the new Bank of Abyssinia, by supplying half of the required capital, whilst the remaining half is to be found by the National Bank of Egypt, at already mentioned by us some few months back.

## THE GHIZEH ZOO.

Besides the 129 new animals from the Sudan which arrived in these gardens on the 10th August, the additions to the menagerie during the present month include four barred doves hatched and reared; two golden crowned cranes received on deposit from Mr. P. Machell; two Norfolk plovers, two desert warblers, and a fine griffon vulture all captured on the Libyan desert and purchased from the bedawin; and four very beautiful pure white peafowl (of which no specimen has been exhibited in these gardens for over six years), four Madagascar lemurs (representing three species) and a galago (a rare species of lemur from Central Africa, with long ears, which it can fold up short at will, and very fine soft grey fur and long bushy tail) also purchased.

## LORD CURZON'S RESIGNATION.

The Mohamedan National Society of Calcutta telegraphed to Lord Curzon, expressing its sincere regret at losing a most accomplished, honest, and sympathising Viceroy. In another telegram a similar society in Bombay said that it regards Lord Curzon's departure as a great misfortune for India, and it referred to the signal services rendered by him to the country.

## ESBEKIEH GARDENS.

By kind permission of Lt. Col. C. J. Markham and officers, the Band of the 1st Batt. King's Royal Rifles will perform the following programme of music at the Esbekieh Gardens to-morrow (Friday) evening, commencing at 9.0 o'clock.

1. March—Hands across the Sea—Sousa
2. Overture—Bronze Horse—Auber
3. Selection—Paddy—Gounod
4. Waltz—Robins and the Queen—Strauss
5. An Original Scotch—Paddy's Chorus—Kreutzer
6. Spanish Serenade—La Paloma—Kreutzer
7. Reminiscences of All Nations—Arranged—Godfrey
8. The Turkish Patrol—Mikhaelis
9. "Si Mohamet labes saith" (By Desire)

Regimental March, Khedivial Anthem. "God save the King."

Thomas Brown, Bandmaster.

## STEAMER MOVEMENTS.

The S.S. Spartan Prince left London yesterday with passengers and general cargo, and is expected to arrive at Alexandria on or about September 16.

The Ellerman S.S. Sardinia, from Liverpool, Swansea, Gibraltar and Malta left the latter port on Wednesday evening and is due at Alexandria on Sunday morning.

## THE SUIGIDE OF M. CRONIER.

## PRICES GREATLY LOWERED.

The news of the suicide in Paris on Monday of the President of the Council of Administration of the Société Générale des Sucreries et de la Raffinerie d'Egypte caused something like a panic on the Cairo Bourse amongst the holders of shares in that company, and today the price had fallen to 40 francs, a drop in two days of nearly 50 per cent. Several sinister rumours were afloat, and the fact that no news of a definite nature was forthcoming as to whether the Sucreries would eventually be losers by the catastrophe that had led to M. Cronier's sad death were factors that brought about the great and sudden depreciation in the quotation of the shares.

The Société des Sucreries was formed in 1892 with a share capital of 22,500,000 francs, divided into 225,000 shares of 100 francs fully paid, besides debentures of 500 francs each for 32,000,000 francs. Up to the present the company has paid regular and handsome dividends and its shares were last week at frs. 155.

## CORPORATION OF WESTERN EGYPT LTD.

The tender of Messrs. Dick, Kerr and Co. for the supply of rails, sleepers, and other permanent way material in connection with the construction of the Nile-Khargeh railway has been accepted. A condition of the tender is that 50 miles of rail are to be ready within five weeks. The works in connection with the embankments to carry the line from the state railway to the edge of the cultivation, including the bridging of the El-Hamranieh canal, are now approaching completion.

## THE EGYPTIAN MINES EXPLORATION COMPANY.

Mr. C. J. Alford has furnished the following summary of the month's operations:—

**ATALLAH MINE.**—(Central Egypt Company). July 26th. Main shaft down 57 ft. No. 1 shaft, first level N.E. vein exposed from 90 to 130 ft. averaged 7 inches wide, 3 ozs. 19 dwts. gold per ton. First level, S.W. 175 ft. no change. Second level N.E. 54 ft. vein 9 inches wide 15 dwts. Second level, S.W. in 80 ft. vein for 13 ft. averaged 6 inches wide, 1 oz. 9 dwts. gold. No. 3 shaft, First level, S.W. 178 ft. vein 4 inches wide, 1 oz. 6 dwts. gold per ton.

**SEMNA MINE.**—(Fatima Company). July 22nd. No. 1 shaft 75 ft. level E, in 30 ft. vein averages 36 inches wide, 1 oz. 9 dwts. gold per ton. No. 2 shaft down 170 ft., 50 ft. level E in 18 ft. vein 42 inches wide, 1 oz. 46 dwts. gold per ton. At this point struck into ancient workings. No. 3 shaft down 71 ft., no change. Crosscut to vein at B. workings, commenced.

**ERIDIA MINE.**—(Eridia Company). Work suspended until October.

## PASSENGER LIST.

## DEPARTURES.

Le paquebot "El-Kahira," de la Cie Khediviale, parti hier pour le Pirée et Constantinople, avait à bord:

M. Nicolas Gennadis, Brigallier, General G. M. Bullock, C.B., cap. H. B. Kennedy et R. A. Birley, lieutenant. H. F. Hope, Mme Vve Boudhidis, 2 enfants et gouvernante, Maitre Pandilis Saltabassis, Nicolas Malamizis, Alex. E. Benachi, C. Stamopoulos, E. J. Athanogenes, F. Goutaland, Geo. Carayias, Daoud bey Raohidi, Alex. Banides, Dr. Yojilas, Geo. C. Constantinidis, F. Hayer, Mme Abdel Baki bey Omari, M. Vergara, A. Nicoletto, Yousef Morgan, Const. Bostani, père Pierre Camados, Jean Andriopoulou, Basil et Const. Ramis, Miltiades Samoli et fils, M. Xigas, N. Calogorovich, Geo. Psahos, Victor Yessila, Pierre Petris, Jean Petridis, Andrea Leopollos, Panos Panayotacopolou, Nicosas Beterannias, Christo Christodoulidis, M. et Mme Stephan Macris, Mr. et Mme Clement Gavrant et famille, Mmes Trini, Genie Sorini, Aspasia Theodorou Vagliamitis, 2 militaires, et 145 passagers de douze points.

## EGYPTIAN SHARE MARKET.

(FROM OUR FINANCIAL CORRESPONDENT).

London, August 25.

A "see-saw" sort of week has passed since our last, with the exception that the rise and falls of the see-saw have been only slight. Notwithstanding the pessimistic views taken by some of the foreign correspondents in their telegrams to the home press as to the prospects of a settlement between Japan and Russia, the City believes that Russia is only bluffing and still adheres to the belief that peace will not be long delayed, and consequently prices have reflected this feeling in a great measure, although the latest telegrams received are of a desponding nature.

Consols, which closed last week at 90 1/4, have been done at 90 1/4, and this led the way to a fairly general advance in other gilt-edged securities. The recent rise in silver also affected rupee paper and other securities dependent upon this metal.

Our home railway market has been firm, with more business doing, owing to the fact that some prominent dealers are now beginning to return from their holidays, and to put in a casual appearance. The fashion still seems to centre in the American railway market, in which there has been a large business done, with rising prices all the week through.

The sensation of the week has been the rapid rise in copper. Standard having risen during the week from £69.10s. to £78. This has favorably affected the price of Rio Tinto shares, as also those of other copper mines, the former having beaten all previous records by touching the top price of 68.

Egyptian stocks and shares remain firm with little doing, as so many of those interested in this market are still on their holidays. Delta lands have been changing hands at 2 1/2 National Pounds are quoted 28 1/2. Agricultural Banks, 14 1/2 and Khedivial Mail Steamship Company's Shares 1 1/2.

The mining market has better tone all round, and although there has been no rise of consequence in the African section to record, it has had a good effect on Egyptian mines, which have during the week received some support on the Nile Valley Company has overcome its difficulties, and has made satisfactory arrangements regarding its finances. The shares close firm at 1/2. Um Rus are well supported at 1 1/2, and Egyptian mines find buyers at over 13s.

There is a general feeling in the Stock Exchange that in the autumn we shall see a distinct appreciation in everything connected with Egypt. The satisfactory reports of the cotton crop are beginning to have their effect, and the work of Mr. Machell in successfully destroying the cotton-weevil has been specially appreciated in this country. Efforts such as these do much to inspire confidence in those who are contemplating investing their money in Egypt, as they are evidence that under British rule no stone is left unturned to secure the prosperity of the country, and that the conduct of affairs is in capable hands.

A point we have touched on more than once is the enormous increase in the world's production of gold, and the effect it is beginning to have on the prices of all commodities. The following figures will enable our readers the better to appreciate what is taking place.

The world's total production of gold for the year 1895 was about £41,000,000. Last year this had risen to nearly £72,000,000, and this showed an increase of about 75,000,000 on the previous year, 1903. The estimate for 1905 is put at about £80,000,000. It is interesting to note that Egypt is beginning to contribute her mite to this year's total, the production of the Nile Valley being about £11,000 to the end of July, and that of the Um Rus about £2,000. This enormous increase in the world's production of gold, in the opinion of those best informed on the subject, is beginning to have its effect on all raw materials, which are the first under such circumstances to be influenced by the lowering of the value of gold. It is anticipated in consequence that we are on the eve of a boom, especially in manufacturing districts, and that as soon as the holidays are over we shall see a very active trade throughout the world.

## SPORT AND PLAY.

## HOME SPORT.

**London, August 30.**  
Pofo. Dublin. Ireland beat England by 5 points to 3.  
Cricket. The North beat the South by 8 wickets. Surrey beat Northamptonshire by an innings and 124 runs. The rest of the matches were drawn.

## CRICKET.

**R.T.C. v. "A" COMPANY-BERKSHIRE.**  
This match was played on Tuesday and resulted in a win for the R.T.C. by 16 runs. Byrnes for the R.T.C. scored 41 runs and took 6 wickets for 23. In their second innings the R.T.C. scored 163 for 4 wickets, when stumps were drawn. For "A" Comp. Robertson and Partridge bowled well, the latter taking 6 wickets for 51. Scores:—

R.T.C.		"A" COMP.	
Mr. P. J. Byrnes, b. Partridge...	41	Mr. G. N. Chessman, c. Robertson, b. Partridge...	6
"G. N. Chessman, c. Robertson, b. Partridge...	0	"C. S. Steele, run out...	0
"C. S. Steele, run out...	0	"M. Blythman, b. Partridge...	1
"M. Blythman, b. Partridge...	1	"E. G. Hanley, c. Woolmer, b. Robertson...	0
"E. G. Hanley, c. Woolmer, b. Robertson...	0	"H. Hanley, b. Partridge...	2
"H. Hanley, b. Partridge...	2	"G. B. Harvey, c. Finch, b. Robertson...	15
"G. B. Harvey, c. Finch, b. Robertson...	15	"C. S. Steele, b. Robertson...	0
"C. S. Steele, b. Robertson...	0	"S. F. Miller, c. Sully, b. Partridge...	8
"S. F. Miller, c. Sully, b. Partridge...	8	"T. N. Ingleton, b. Partridge...	1
"T. N. Ingleton, b. Partridge...	1	"W. T. E. Carleton, not out...	5
"W. T. E. Carleton, not out...	5	Extras...	8
Total...	87	Total...	87

Bowling.		Overs		Maidens		Runs		Wickets	
Mr. Robertson	11	2	28	3					
Pte. Partridge	10	2	51	6					

R.T.C. 2ND INNINGS.		"A" COMP. 2ND INNINGS.	
Mr. G. N. Chessman, b. Swan...	69	G. S. Steele, c. Finch, b. Swan...	40
G. S. Steele, c. Finch, b. Swan...	40	R. M. Blythman, b. Swan...	0
R. M. Blythman, b. Swan...	0	H. Hanley, b. Robertson...	30
H. Hanley, b. Robertson...	30	P. J. Byrnes, not out...	29
P. J. Byrnes, not out...	29	E. G. Hanley, not out...	7
E. G. Hanley, not out...	7	Extras...	3
Total...	168	Total...	168

"A" COMP. BREAKS.		Bowling.		Overs		Maidens		Runs		Wickets	
Pte. Kean, b. Hanley...	7	Mr. Byrnes	14	7	28	3					
Balcher, b. Hanley, b. Byrnes...	14	Hanley	10	2	27	2					
Brand, b. Blythman, b. Hanley...	5	Harvey	3.3	0	11	2					
Biggs, b. Byrnes...	20	Total...									
Major Finch, b. Byrnes...	0										
Pte. Swan, c. Harvey, b. Byrnes...	9										
Baerman, b. Harvey...	1										
Mr. Robertson, b. Byrnes...	1										
Pte. Sully, not out...	1										
Woolmer, b. Byrnes...	0										
Partridge, c. Chessman, b. Harvey...	8										
Extras...	5										
Total...	71										

Bowling.		Overs		Maidens		Runs		Wickets	
Mr. Byrnes	14	7	28	3					
Hanley	10	2	27	2					
Harvey	3.3	0	11	2					

Bowling.		Overs		Maidens		Runs		Wickets	
Mr. Byrnes	14	7	28	3					
Hanley	10	2	27	2					
Harvey	3.3	0	11	2					

## KHEDIVIAL YACHT CLUB.

## REGATTA.

The following is the result of yesterday's regatta:

1	Sans Pareille	3.50.25	5.11.43	H. de Tokuudi
2	Tier d' Mine	3.33.19	5.11.50	Capt. Borg
3	Leman	3.41.25	5.12.35	Mr. de Plante
	Celtic	3.37.17	5.13.31	Capt. Evans
	Minnie	3.30.43	5.14.40	W. de Conroy
	Barthesee	3.45.25	5.18.18	T. McArthur
	Shoop	3.39.18	5.35.34	A. Gratton
CLASS II.				
1	Maar	4.07.30	5.31.37	F. Batten
2	Calipeo	4.12.14	5.33.43	Dr. Frey
3	Akraba	5.57.00	5.39.00	Sage. Phillips
	Jessica	5.56.57	5.43.07	Gratton Bay

The wind was light from the W. N. W. which consequently rather upset the usual handicap. Next week there will be a special race for two handsome cups given by the Commodore.







## A MOUNTAIN PARADISE.

There is nothing to do in the Canary Islands, and one has no energy to do it with. The climate is lovely, no doubt, for the sun shines, and the daily range of temperature even in February is no more than 65 to 70 degrees, but only necessity can make a man energetic. What supplied me with the necessary strength of mind and body to tackle the Peak was the simple fact that I had told friends of mine in England that I meant to do it. Otherwise I should have sat in a chair to look at it, or have ascended it by telescope in the same way that Mark Twain did Mont Blanc. But having said I was going to do it I hampered me.

On the evening of my arrival at Orotava I asked for guides, and heard that those usually supplied by my hotel were away. I sent for one Frederico, not upon the list, and he came headlong from the Villa, and brought his brother Dionisio. I was especially strict in ordering a sound mule, one which was "sano" and had no sore upon it. Frederico and Dionisio swore by their gods and all the saints that they possessed the soundest and most wonderful mule in all the islands, an animal which knew the way to the Peak by himself and would carry me there as if I sat in an armchair. For one ride to Alta Vista, where the hut stands at the height of 10,700 feet. As to being carried to that height as if in a chair or a hammock I had my doubts, for I knew mules, and my notions on that head were not far out. Moreno, for that was my mule's name, indeed proved sound. I took his saddle off to see, for in these matters no inhabitant of the island is to be trusted, and he possessed all his skin, which is a rare thing in the Canaries.

So we started at seven in the morning, Dionisio and I and a man called Teleforo, for Frederico had another work. I had made my arrangements as to payment, and on telling them that if I was satisfied I should add another dollar or five pesetas to the agreed sum, they swore I was a very noble Caballero, and one of the most generous people they had ever had the luck to meet. This cheered me up, and we rode to the Villa Orotava in great spirits, there picking up a pack mule, named after the great Spanish painter, Murillo, which carried the forage and the men's food and my food and blankets. The Villa is a half-deserted, quiet town rather more than a thousand feet above Orotava Puerto; it has the same air of exclusiveness that any half-ruined old aristocrat might possess. Its quiet is the quiet of poverty. And yet it is very beautiful. An hour after leaving the town we passed out of the area of cultivation and left the little hill farms, coming to thin forest and a flowering shrub called codoos.

After the little forests and the codoos we came to cinders. For, after all, the Canary Islands are only seven cinders heaps, the product of fire. A handful of soil is always half cinders. The path grew steep and the mules slid and floundered, and the Villa faded below us, and the port shone in sunshine on the verge of the sea. And the sea horizon spread further and further and yet appeared to rise till it seemed that we were in a deep cup. The illusion is difficult to rid one's self of. And then at last we lost the sea for a time and came to a scene of fiery desolation; burnt rocks, cinder heaps, a split or canyon, or barranco, called the Barranco de la Reina.

Here the retama begins, for on the upward lands of pumice and cinder, nothing can grow but this. It is a strong and vigorous hardwood shrub that grows in patches, and it is sometimes ten feet high. The foliage is like mare's tail; it is tough and acrid, and the mules seemed to love it. We were close to the Pertillo or gate to the Canyadas, by which one means the ancient and vast crater in which the Peak as we know it now rises. For the old crater must have been one mighty lake of fire ten miles across, not perhaps all a flame of lava at once but like Kilauea in the Sandwich Island, an ebbing and flowing sea of fire. The walls of this crater are partially swept away, but even now they stand hundreds of feet high for long miles, and are huge buttresses scarped and scraped by the heat of centuries. And in places water has washed them away. For sometimes the volcano has vomited floods. In other parts towards the north-west these barriers are beaten as low as they are at the Pertillo. But towards Vilaflor they stand red, gigantic, and fire-eaten relics of a dreadful past.

How does the retama grow so green on cinders and pumice? For these strange Canyadas are a great plain of pumice, beaten and pounded into little fragments and to powder. The whole plain is brown and white, the powdered rapilli move with the wind, move of themselves it seems. For the dead branches of still rooted retama seem to flow down hill on a faint slope from their parent roots. The air was fine and still as we rode over the plain. It reminded me of the air of the highest plateaus of Texas. It was keen, intoxicating, bright. I forgot that I had no energy in Orotava. The air of the Canyadas seemed life itself.

And far across the brown plain, which looked less barren than it was, for the colour recalled the burnt and brown grasses of Australia, the Peak rose, the Peak of Tenerife. El Pico de Teide, the ancient home of the Guanche gods. It was even yet five thousand feet above us, but it showed itself as a bold hump, a gigantic fumarole shaped like a rounded breast with another cinder heap upon its summit like a nipple. It was very old, very strange, very grim, unlike any other mountain that I had seen. It possessed none of the terrors of the icy peaks of the Alps, and yet snow gleamed upon it still. But it had character all its own. It was my first volcanic mountain.

To the left as we went south-west Monte Bianco rose in another low hump, a mountain of white pumice. Here and there juts of volcanic rock protruded from the earth of ash, like decayed tusks. Each tusk had once been a fire jet. Now we passed bits of pumice, where a pumice mine had been, and Moreno ploughed through it almost as deeply as if it had been snow. Far above us on the slopes leading to the Peak itself were huge separate blocks of lava, which had rolled from a great lava dike as ice breaks from an icefall. They shone afar off, gleaming in the sun, polished, clean fractured like obsidian. And the great walls or dikes of lava seemed yet to roll down from the crater. They showed black, tremendous and barren. It is only in the lower country that the poisonous euphoria grows on lava.

Now we were even leaving the hardy retama behind us as we climbed upward to the old camping grounds where people used to sleep before the high hut of Alta Vista was built. The first camp was called Estancia de los Alemanos, and above it was the second one. Estancia de los Ingleses at nearly ten thousand feet. And now the worn rough path over lava and cinder and loose rapilli zigzagged up the steep side of the great cone. For hours I had seen no vegetation, no sign of life, not even a vulture flew overhead, not so much as a stray moth; the world was a glare of sand cinders, fine rapilli, white pumice, black lava.

On either hand as we criss-crossed up the steep slope a mighty dike of lava, broken, crackled like a spoilt glazed pot in the fire, shone in the sun which now began to leave us in shadow. In another hour we came to a little flat space, and were at Alta Vista, the hut. It was four o'clock, and I looked down upon a dead world of fire, and yet up to the horizon. For the sea-line climbed high, we were in a well. The distances in spite of the clear air seemed immense. The vast opposing wall of the Canyadas was red, bastioned, and grim, and as the sun began to get lower it grew pink and wonderful. The brown stretches of the Canyadas themselves were a floor of yellowish fire. And still the effect was not so desolate as it might have been, for here and there a greenish mineral looked almost like grass, and the brown was the exact brown of burnt herb. But with the one exception of that faint rare tinge of green, the whole choral of colour was at first in the cinders.

While the men unloaded the pack mule I sat on the doorstep of the hut and stared eastward. Grand Canary was not visible. It lay under clouds, even as a huge departing steamer might have been hidden under fresh smoke in a following wind. I felt well. The fatigue of riding was on me but I felt no touch of mountain sickness. I sighed a little now and again, but could smoke. So far the rise from the sea level to 10,700ft. had not affected my heart. My mind too, went easily. I was pleased to be at Alto Vista, above the world, in ancient peace and quiet.

The wind was still. I looked down upon a red moonscape, as it seemed to me. And as one sees the shadows of the peaks in the moon, so now the shadows of the peak and the lesser fumaroles crept across the floor of the Canyadas. Near me was a patch of snow, over it was black forbidding lava down below red faded to grey and darkened. The shadow of the great cone crept across the floor. But above me the real moon was gibbous and faint. The calm air froze. The shadow of the Peak became a vast pyramid, outlined on the red-brown floor. It crept to the ancient crater cliff, climbed it and went seaward.

In half an hour the point of the shadow was nearly to the horizon. The darkest umbral point of the shadow was near the top. It looked like a floating cloud; triangular, vague; a shadow on the air. Overhead the sky was yellow and yellow-blue. The horizon was rosy, and the crater walls rosiest still. The cliffs towards Vilaflor shone wonderfully. And then the shadow of the Peak shot beyond the horizon. The Canyadas were covered with a thin grey haze. They looked as if they had been a sea. There was a line of whitened pumice and grey sand beneath the crater walls, looking like an ancient beach. As the sun set the effect was very beautiful. The shadow of the cone was visible in the very air. The Grand Canary clouds were grey, purple, and fine faint gold.

I had my supper alone in the paper-strewn hut. Dionisio and Teleforo prepared their simple meal of gofio and potatoes, and were delighted to share my better food. But delicacy forbade them coming to my room. I lighted six candles, and had the stove red with dried retama. Even so the cold was intense. Though I was warmly clad I took my rug and, with a knife, cut a hole in the middle of it, and converting it into a poncho, put my head through the hole. After food I came out on the plateau, and found the moon brighter. Under its rays the snow patches looked infinitely cold and the black lava blacker still. The air was quiet, the frost intense.

Thrice that night I rose to light the fire again. And my two men slept in their room with a fire on the floor. The smoke came through the cracks of the wall, and nearly choked me. I slept, and froze, and woke, and cursed all mountain-climbing, and remembered that in Orotava I should have been sleeping with open windows. I woke finally at dawn, and got my breakfast in a rage. Once more (as always) I determined to climb no more mountains. And then Dionisio said he was ready if I was. We started on the last fifteen hundred feet just as the sun rose, and the hard colours of the morning illumined the cold world.

The wind was bitter. I never felt such cold. And we passed much snow. The rough path was blocked with it, and Dionisio evidently had all a Southerner's dislike of it. I found my ice-axe useful a dozen times. Certainly I needed it even as a stick, for my breath grew miserably short. Every fifty feet I had to rest, and at last we came to the Ramblata, another plateau, once a crater from which the final ash

cone now springs. It was at a slope of a little over 30 deg., and the ashes were soft. I was glad to see a patch of snow even if I had to cut steps. But sooner than go upon the snow Dionisio went half a mile round, while I cut my way up it slowly. At the steep top of the snow I was utterly exhausted, and sat down for ten minutes.

The top was yet infinitely far away. I felt weak, frozen, my heart was feeble. It was obvious that the easy Peak was not so easy to a man out of condition, to an invalid. But I threw off my poncho, left it on the ashes, and climbed again. We came to the first blow-hole, and at the sight of the smoke I cheered up. When I came to El Nariz as it is called, I knelt down and warmed my hands. But still the top was hundreds of feet above us. The last pull was the worst of all, for now the wind from the south-west, the Counter Equatorial current, blew fiercely. When I topped the edge of the high crater I was glad to fall flat behind a rock and lie there to get my breath. And I smelt sulphur and sulphurous acid, and choking fumes of it came at me in gusts, which finally drove me right to the windward side, which was the last and final summit of the peak.

There are days when one sees the whole world, so to speak, from the rocks above the sulphur pit. A man may count Tenerife's satellites, Grand Canary, Fuerteventura, Lanzarote to the east; Palma, Gomera, and Hierro to the west. These islands swim in lucid sea and air; are painted in fine atmosphere on the climbing wall of the high sea horizon. But such good fortune was not mine. The eastern islands were under clouds and haze. And to the west there was a mighty sea of cloud under which Palma and her neighbours lay like rocks beneath snow. Yet suddenly the cloud-blanket swayed and sank lower to the west; the heights of Palma broke through; and then Gomera showed darkly, and beyond it, to the south-west, Hierro. Then the clouds closed again, and there was nothing visible but the slopes of my own peak and the Canyadas, for even lower Tenerife itself was under clouds six thousand feet above the sea level. The whole world as I saw it was Volcano.

The loose-tipped, gaping crater of Chahorra was beneath me to the west. It is dead, they say, yet it looked but asleep. Further across the Canyadas and beyond them rose other volcanoes, great fumaroles visibly active, smoking heavily, like a steamer firing up with Newcastle coal. Two smoked furiously; one puffed at leisure over against Garachico, once a great port but destroyed by lava in 1706. As for me, I felt as if I was being destroyed by frost, and crawled down into the crater, when I had recovered my breath, to get warm at sulphur vents; the creater was white and yellow, cracked and seamed. Out of cracks visible vapour came, but here and there an invisible gas nearly choked me. But the whole pit or fiery saucer was warm and comfortable; I left it with reluctance, for still the wind carried ice in it, and bit and nipped me. I climbed once again to the highest rock and took in the volcanic world of ash, prized off the actual top of the peak with the pick of my ice-axe and put it in my pocket, and then turned to go back. We ran and slid to the Ramblata, one might almost have glissaded on the steep ash. But as I descended I grew more tired; the cold got hold of me again. By the time I reached the hut I was done for, and lay on a mattress, glad to get a medicinal drink of brandy touched up with some drops of nuxvomica. My heart almost refused to beat, and I came to the conclusion as I lay unable to move for over an hour that climbing even easy mountains over 12,000 feet was not a proper amusement for an invalid. I thought so even when I reached Orotava again that afternoon, after seven hours on a mule, having descended from the Peak by way of La Portalesa, lood el Alto and the steep descent over Realejo. But I am glad I went all the same, for there are many mountains and only one Pico de Teide.

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## WHORTLEBERRIES ON EXMOOR

"Huray! Huray!"

They all came running out of the village school, shouting, whooping the boys snatching off and throwing up each other's caps. "Hurra-a-ay!" In more exuberance of joy, close by the churchyard steps, "girt" Jack Bawdon shoved little Tommy Steer up against Priscilla Baker, a most fit to knock her down. "An' you'd best to look out then to what you be about, John Bawdon. Girt bittle-head!" cried Priscilla with sudden anger and a fine accession of dignity. But there was no time to quarrel on that sunny summer afternoon. For the whortleberries—"worts" they called them, and even "harts"—were turning purple upon the moor, and the holidays had begun. Those summer holidays, that began upon no fixed date, but were a movable festival, changing according to the season, so that the children might gather the wild harvest of the moorland. There were little more than a score, though they made noise enough for a hundred as they ran down the village street. "Hoor-a-ay!"

I have an affection for that Exmoor village street. It is so far-away, so quaint and old-world.

It runs along the hill-side, with little by-ways up the incline, so that the houses stand one behind and above the other. But the squat embattled tower of the old grey church rears higher than them all. Before each cottage is a slanting garden. Ranks of peas and tall scarlet runners, laden now with flowers, as well as beans ready for use, run parallel with the path of flat stones from the front door to the hatch. There are tall holly-hocks, groups of blue monks'-hood, and here and there a fuchsia bush, bearing tiny red flowers less than an inch in length. All sorts of creepers clamber over the white-washed front, and geraniums blind the downstairs windows. There is a clothesline, too, from which household cloths and wonderful unmentionable garments flutter gaily in the wind. A faggot pile and a dark brown stack of turves stand close by. The smoke that rises curling out of the chimney is blue and has no smuts.

Down the valley, merely humming around rocks and boulders, leaps the silver Barle; and above the woods and enclosed fields that skirt its course, both before and behind the village, lies the broad moor where the whortleberries grow.

It is quite a little industry this picking of "worts," though it lasts only about three weeks. No other fruit possesses so unexpected a flavour. None gives so fine a blend with the so-called cream, which is one of the most admirable institutions of the neighbourhood. So there is invariably a great demand. And when the crop is small, why the price goes so much the higher. We must all go "a-wurting." If not for trade, as a sort of a picnic.

I let it be known that a guide was required to point out the most fruitful places. Three applicants for the post came running upon each other's heels—"girt" Jack Bawdon, little Tommy Steer, and Priscilla Baker, who arrived breathless, but three yards in front. Priscilla, in my eyes, is not a beauty. She is fair and florid, with hair like tow, and a broad open face that beams ingenuous innocence. I admired Priscilla for this unmixt candour. After all why not engage all three? They will be company for each other, and children are not reticent of their psychology.

"Well, what is the fee?"

Priscilla is but twelve, and younger than "girt" Jack Bawdon, who by unconscious association of ideas leads the mind to think of bacon; but she constituted herself spokeswoman at once.

"Be we to have our keep?"

"Certainly."

"Be we to pick vor ee, or only to show ee about?"

"To pick for me," I replied at a venture.

"I have a-picked a peck," replied Priscilla. "But then they was plenty. What would ee say to a shillon a-piece?"

"Very well that will—"

"Or one an' a penny," interrupted Priscilla with conviction.

We agreed upon that. The odd penny seemed to give dignity to the transaction. It raised a mere common wage to a professional honorarium. So now we had only to decide where to go. "Girt" Jack Bawdon shouted out, "Why, Winsford Common, to be sure." But a bit of a frown puckered Priscilla's brow, and her thick red lips put on a pout. "I should say Withypool Moor," cried she. To Withypool Moor we went.

We began with a mile of lane. But a glorious lane between walled banks with sheltering beech hedgerows high above. On either hand were bright green ferns and tall purple foxgloves, to which great bumble-bees paid visits, buzzing from flower to flower all up the tapering stem, and silent only when they crept within to drink. Wild strawberries, with deep crimson fruit, sprang from the crevices, and hung ripening over the mossy stones. Wild raspberries, too, on Lilliputian canes, drawing an ancestry, it may be, from bird-carried seed of a more cultured stock, flourished in profusion. "Ah! They do beat the garden ones boller," cried Priscilla. "That they do." And she held out half-a-dozen on her brown palm.

Out of the shady lane, by a narrow pathway up the slope, where bracken grows waist-high after the old heather has been burnt off, we climbed to the ridge of the open, breezy moor. Masses of purple heather and the paler-coloured ling were in full flower; and growing amongst them, and intermingled everywhere, was the little dark green myrtle-shaped leaf that half-conceals a berry almost the size of a black currant, and covered with a thicker bloom than the wild rose. Honeybees were humming on all sides, and butterflies went flitting by in the sun. Upon the brown hill-

side of next ridge was passing the dark shadow of an August thundercloud.

We picked and picked, stopping only when some incident was thought worthy of my attention. Priscilla's eyes were the quickest. She first took note of the buzzard circling with outspread rounded wings on his way across the moor. She saw the raven too, which "girt" Jack Bawdon said was nothing but a crow. But little Tommy Steer was the hero of the day. He came upon an adder half asleep across a tuft of dry grass, and not having a stick, stamped on it with his hob-nailed boot. "Lank, nasty girt thing!" cried Priscilla, as we gathered round to look at the black diamonds down his back.

At noon we unanimously agreed to investigate the keep. We sat out of the sun beside a stack of brown turves set up to dry. Most of our fingers were purple with the juice of the whortleberries. So were three pairs of lips. In the landscape we could see the whitewashed village whence we came.

"What are you all going to be when you grow up?"

"I shan't bide here," said "girt" Jack Bawdon.

"Ne't I," cried Priscilla. "Why what is but woods an' moors and a river a-runnen all the wick alike?"

"I hall go in the Lannon p'lice when I be a man," declared little Tommy Steer.

At one end of the village, unnoticed as you pass the street, are two cottages. The doors are broken, the windows are gone, there are holes in the roof, and weeds growing on the thatch. The population has been dwindling for years.

After all we only picked a quart apiece. But as Priscilla said, "You never can't tell. Maybe we ought to a-went to Winsford a'ter all." Wherever she may go that girl is destined to get on in life. She went to Winsford for herself the next day and picked a peck.

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